

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q90911

Roberto AVALLONE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/500,019

Group Art Unit: 3663

Confirmation No.: 2233

Examiner: Deandra M. Hughes

Filed: June 23, 2004

For: **OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM WITH RAMAN AMPLIFIERS COMPRISING A SUPERVISORY SYSTEM**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, dated April 24, 2006, Applicant elects Group I, and modulator species (c) - magneto-optical variable attenuator for each of the first, second and third optical attenuators. The claims readable on the elected species include claims 1-4, 8, 9 and 16-34. The election is with traverse.

This application is a national stage entry of a PCT International Application, and restriction practice is governed under PCT Rule 13.1. PCT Rule 13.1 requires that the inventions be so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. PCT Rule 13.2 points out that the single general inventive concept requirement of PCT Rule 13.1 is considered satisfied "when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features." The expression "special technical features" is then defined as "those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art."

In the present case, claim 1 recites the system as including a first supervisory unit generating a first supervisory signal and associated with at least one modulator which superimposes the first supervisory signal on a first optical signal, and at least one pump source disposed along the optical link and adapted to send onto the optical link a pump signal in a